

Message Text

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40/42

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 L-02 H-01

OMB-01 ACDA-05 /075 W

----- 111033

O R 051430Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6066

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 232

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1665

C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR E.O. LINE SHOULD GDS VICE N/A)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KN, KS, BC

SUBJECT: KOREA AT THE 29TH UNGA

REFS: A) STATE 266163

B) STATE 264727

C) USUN 5662

D) USUN 5572

E) USUN 5364

F) GABORONE 1630

G) GABORONE 1661

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TIBONE HAS
CONFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA HAS DECIDED TO
VOTE YES ON THE HOSTILE KOREAN RESOLUTION. BECAUSE OF THE
TIMING OF THE VOTE AND THE JUST ANNOUNCED DECISION TO ESTABLISH
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DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH NORTH KOREA, TIBONE SAYS HE WILL

ATTEMPT TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIS MINISTER IN LUSAKA TO RECOMMEND AN ABSTENTION. THE BRITISH ALSO INTEND TO WEIGH IN ON THE QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

2. DCM DISCUSSED FRENCH AMENDMENT AND GABON SPONSORSHIP (REFS D AND B) WITH ACTING SECRETARY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MPUCHANE AND PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT LEGWAILA ON DEC 3. IN DOING SO, DCM STRESSED THAT NEW LANGUAGE MADE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION VIRTUALLY THE UNIVERSAL OR UNANIMOUS STATEMENT SINCE IT NOW TOOK EXPLICITLY INTO ACCOUNT DESIRE FOR REVIEW OF CONTINUATION OF U.N. COMMAND (UNC) BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL--THE COMPETENT BODY REGARDING QUESTIONS OF THE UNC. LEGWAILA AND MPUCHANE AGREED TO PASS THE INFORMATION TO THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE FOR REVIEW. THEY LEFT THE DCM WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE DECISION REGARDING THE KOREAN RESOLUTION WAS UP IN THE AIR.

3. IN LINE WITH REFS C AND A AND PRIOR TO THE CALL ON OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON DEC 5, DCM CALLED ON BRITISH HEAD OF CHANCERY SCANLON TO DETERMINE BRITISH VIEWS AND PLANS HERE. SCANLON CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ATTEMPT TO CHANGE BOTSWANA VOTE ON HOSTILE RESOLUTION FROM YES TO AT LEAST ABSTENTION. DCM BRIEFED HIM ON CONTENTS OF HOSTILE RESOLUTION AND ON BACKGROUND TO POSITION HELD BY SUPPORTERS OF THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. DCM NOTED THAT RADIO BOTSWANA HAD MORNING DEC 5 ANNOUNCED THE COMMENCEMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF KOREA (REF G) AND SUGGESTED THAT THE TIMING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT COULD BE USED TO ENCOURAGE THE GOB TO AT LEAST ABSTAIN ON HOSTILE RESOLUTION TO MAINTAIN SENSE OF BALANCE AND EVEN-HANDEDNESS REGARDING TWO KOREAS. SCANLON UNDERTOOK TO SEE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TIBONE AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

4. DCM THEN CALLED ON TIBONE TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFS C AND A. TIBONE ACKNOWLEDGED DURING HOUR AND 15-MINUTE DISCUSSION THAT GOB REP AT U.N. HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO VOTE FOR HOSTILE RESOLUTION. GOB RATIONALE IS THAT SINCE BOTH SOUTH AND NORTH KOREANS HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO WITHDRAWAL OF UNC, BOTSWANA IS NOT INJURING ANYONE BY VOTING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT U.S. TROOPS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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KOREA, LIKE BRITISH ADVISERS WITH BOTSWANA POLICE, WERE RESULT OF FRIENDLY BILATERAL RELATIONS AND AGREEMENT AND WERE NOT SUBJECT FOR U.N. CONCERN, BUT HE CLAIMED THAT SINCE U.S. TROOPS WERE NOT IDENTIFIED, BOTSWANA WAS NOT OBLIGED TO CONSIDER ITS VOTE AS AGAINST U.S. INTERESTS.

5. WHAT DID AROUSE TIBONE'S CONCERN WAS BEING ALERTED TO THE PUBLIC REACTION TO THE TWO ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF NORTH

KOREA, I.E. INITIATION OF DIPLOMATIC TIES AND VOTE FOR THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION OCCURRING SO CLOSE TOGETHER. HE RECOGNIZED THAT ALTHOUGH THE TIMING WAS COINCIDENTAL (SINCE THE DECISION TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC TIES WAS TAKEN SOME TIME AGO) THE APPEARANCE WAS UNFORTUNATE.

6. ON THE BASIS OF THE TIMING QUESTION, TIBONE SAID HE WOULD "HAVE NO TROUBLE" IN RECOMMENDING THAT BOTSWANA ABSTAIN ON THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION. THE PROBLEM IS THAT WITH THE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER IN LUSAKA, A CHANGE IN THE DECISION IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD CALL THE BOTSWANA HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LUSAKA AND TRY TO PASS HIS VIEWS TO THE PRESIDENT IN THAT MANNER. HE HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE HOWEVER THAT THIS EFFORT WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL OR IN TIME DUE TO THE IMMEDIACY OF THE KOREAN VOTE.

7. SCANLON HAS JUST INFORMED DCM THAT TIBONE GAVE HIM SOME GENERAL EXPRESSIONS OF VIEWS IN FORTY-FIVE MINUTE DISCUSSION JUST CONCLUDED.

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